

ALMA RECORD

VOL. XXVII, NO. 6

ALMA, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1905

WHOLE NO. 1358

First State Bank

(Successors to W. S. Turck & Co.)

CAPITAL, \$30,000
SURPLUS, \$14,000

A. W. WRIGHT, President.
W. S. TURCK, Vice-President.
E. L. BREWBAKER, Cashier.

A General Banking Business transacted.
Money loaned on approved notes and real estate.
Interest paid on time deposits.

The Alma State Savings Bank

ALMA, MICH.

Capital, \$25,000.00
Surplus, \$5,000.00

William A. Bahlke, President.
F. R. Hathaway, Vice-President.
Jas. W. Robinson, Vice-President.
J. O. W. Moore, Cashier.

Respectfully solicits the patronage of the public and offers all liberality consistent with good banking.
Interest paid on certificates of deposits remaining three months.
Safety Deposit Boxes to rent.

Dr. W. Kelly, Dentist
Filling and preserving the natural teeth. Crown and Bridge Work a specialty.
Artificial Teeth. \$4.00 per set.
OFFICE: Opera House Block, ALMA, MICH.

DR. G. O. VAN METER
SUCCESSOR TO DR. OLP

DENTIST

ROOMS 5 AND 6
POLASKY BLOCK ALMA, MICH.

PROFESSIONAL.

E. A. BAGLEY, Physician and Surgeon
Office, Opera House Block, Office hours 1:30 to 5:30 and 7:00 to 9:00 p. m. Diseases of the eye and ear a specialty.

J. F. SUYDAM, M. D., Physician and Surgeon
Office, Opera House Block.

DR. NELSON P. MCCLINTON, Graduate University of Michigan
Office, Opera House Block, Office hours 1:30 to 5:30 and 7:00 to 9:00 p. m. Night calls, telephone from office, not necessary to call central.

DR. E. T. Lamb, office in Bahlke building
Office hours, 10 to 12 a. m., 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p. m. Night calls at office.

JAS. G. KRESS, Attorney and Solicitor
Office, 4 and 5 opera house block, Alma, Mich. Phone No. 16. Practice in Circuit, State and United States Courts.

BERT HAYES, Attorney at Law and Solicitor
Office, 4 and 5 opera house block, Alma, Mich. Practice in Circuit, State and United States Courts.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF The Alma State Savings Bank

At ALMA, MICH.

at the close of business, March 14, 1905, as called for by the Commissioner of the Banking Department.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts, \$65,474.72
Bonds, mortgages and securities, \$5,073.52
Overdrafts, 580.82
Furniture and fixtures, \$37,259.50
Due from banks in reserve cities, 1,300.00
U. S. and National Bank Currency, 8,524.30
Gold coin, 602.50
Silver coin, 1,430.00
Nickels and cents, 109.15

Checks, cash items, internal revenue accounts, 50.52
Total, \$105,472.38

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in, \$25,000.00
Surplus fund, 5,000.00
Undivided profits, net, 296.43
Commercial deposits, \$3,535.62
Savings certificates, 77,396.25

Total, \$105,472.38

STATE OF MICHIGAN, ss.
COUNTY OF GRATOT, ss.
I, Geo. W. Moore, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Geo. W. Moore, Cashier.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this twentieth day of March, 1905.
My commission expires Oct. 26, 1905.
L. S. BAGLEY, Notary Public

CORRECT—Attest:
WILLIAM A. BAHKE, Directors,
J. W. ROBINSON,
L. H. HAYT.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF The First State Bank

At ALMA, MICH.

at the close of business, March 14, 1905, as called for by the Commissioner of the Banking Department.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts, \$10,526.82
Bonds, mortgages and securities, 75,321.96
Overdrafts, 211.88
Furniture and fixtures, 500.00
Due from banks in reserve cities, \$64,082.97
U. S. and National Bank Currency, 14,612.00
Gold coin, 675.00
Silver coin, 1,218.65
Nickels and cents, 360.30

Checks, cash items, internal revenue accounts, 650.18
Total, \$97,760.63

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in, \$25,000.00
Surplus fund, 14,000.00
Undivided profits, net, 3,061.43
Commercial deposits, 28,906.10
Savings certificates, 171,713.21

Total, \$97,760.63

STATE OF MICHIGAN, ss.
COUNTY OF GRATOT, ss.
I, E. L. Brewbaker, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

E. L. Brewbaker, Cashier.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this twentieth day of March, 1905.
My commission expires Feb. 29, 1908.
C. H. WAGBURN, Notary Public.

CORRECT—Attest:
A. W. WRIGHT, Directors,
G. S. WARD,
L. A. SHARP.

\$33.00 Pacific Coast.

AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

Some Further Changes Necessary for Relief of the Legislature.

FLOODED WITH LOCAL BILLS.

Governor Warner Gives Prompt Attention to Charges Against Offending Officials

Lansing, March 20, 1905.

A delegation from Montcalm county waited upon Governor Warner one day last week and preferred charges against the prosecuting attorney of that county for neglect of duty in failure to prosecute violations of the local option law, and asking his dismissal from office. The governor promptly referred the case to Attorney General Bird for investigation, and upon his report the governor will act. Governor Warner has shown a ready responsiveness to all demands of the duty he has assumed of executing the laws, and requiring that all officers in subordinate positions shall likewise observe the obligations resting upon them. The case of Mr. Dutcher, of the board of control for the asylum at Newberry, was a good illustration of this. There was no hesitation or delay in requiring him to vacate his office, as soon as the investigation showed that he had violated the law in profiting by contracts for supplies, though it was not shown that the state had suffered any financial loss thereby. Mr. Dutcher made the plea that he had committed no moral wrong, but only a technical violation of the law since he only charged the state the market price for the wood he sold. But Governor Warner believed that no officer could violate the law which he had taken an obligation to obey without committing a moral wrong, and showing himself unfit for the trust that had been reposed in him.

One of the seventeen joint resolutions that have been introduced at this session of the legislature proposing submission of amendments to the constitution, is one in the house, by Mr. Lord of Detroit providing for a general incorporation law for cities and villages. It cannot be acted upon in time to be submitted to the voters at the approaching spring election, but it is highly desirable that something should be done along that line to relieve the legislature of the constantly increasing flood of special legislation, not only in charters of incorporation but in many other classes. The state of Illinois put into her constitution thirty years ago prohibition of special and local legislation of many classes, and provided general laws instead and if Mr. Lord's resolution does not include such prohibition, it should. The man who shall prepare for our state a practicable scheme of wide application for such purposes will do a great service.

It is felt to be absurd that more than a third of all the bills offered for consideration should be of a private and local character, for purposes that could in large part be as well attained by the operation of general laws already existing on that might exist, and which not only involve great expense in their enactment like laws, but which afterward for all time lumber up the law books with countless statutes, and burden the courts and the people in their administration. Of seven hundred and nineteen bills introduced in the first two months of this session, two hundred and fifty-one are private and local bills. Of these, seventy-eight are to provide or amend municipal charters, and for erecting or changing wards, townships, precincts and school districts. Then thirty-nine more are to authorize various municipalities to bond themselves for local purposes, and forty-eight others provide for various county and municipal officers, or prescribe duties, and compensation for such officers. Add to these thirty more for incorporation of religious, fraternal and business associations, and we have one hundred and ninety-five bills of these classes, almost all of them unnecessary if we only had the general laws under which these local interests could be regulated, with constitutional prohibition of the needless waste. We have now much of the provision in general laws, but not the prohibition of the eternal duplication and variation and nullification of such provision in local acts. The enumeration of bills is from the calendar of March 10, and the days since have added their full quota.

Nor are these all. The perpetual tinkering with the game and fish laws goes on with seventy bills for such purposes in the first two months, about half of which are of local application. They include six for protection of rabbits in certain counties, one to protect frogs, and one to protect angle worms, mosquitoes and other bugs, in the interest of the preservation of birds and fishes. There had been six general and seven local bills for primary voting; twenty-one relating to drainage and sixteen to highways, a good proportion of these are local in their scope. These local measures have interested pushers behind them, and first attention is compelled for them. Why and how it is that the legislature may be in session two months with scarcely a half dozen acts that the people at large know or care anything about to show for it is fully explained by these conditions. The members are not to be blamed for this. They are understood to be here to serve their constituents carrying out their wishes, and that is precisely what they are doing in all this, and it can never be remedied until there is change of policy commanded in the constitution.

SCHOOL HOUSE ASSURED

Proposition Carried by Good Majority at Special Meeting Monday Evening.

WORK WILL BEGIN AT ONCE.

Plans Will be Submitted to Board Tonight, and Bids Called For.

The result of the special school meeting Monday evening is truly gratifying and is one more evidence of the progressive spirit of our citizens in favoring every legitimate effort for the improvement of our city.

The board met Tuesday morning in special session and authorized the issuance of bonds. They will be divided as follows: \$1000 each year for the first five years, \$2000 each year for the next five years, and \$2000 ten years after date of issue all bearing four per cent interest. Plans for the new building will be presented to the board this (Friday) evening and if they are accepted, bids for construction will be advertised for at once.

FURNITURE STORE SOLD.

John N. Dean Who Has Been One of Alma's Business Men for Fifteen Years Has Sold to Convis Brothers.

John W. Dean, who has been one of Alma's successful business men for fifteen years, has sold his furniture and undertaking business to O. L. Convis of Durand and F. L. Convis of Maple Rapids, who took possession last Saturday morning.

F. L. Convis has moved his family here and occupies the house recently vacated by Mrs. Dunham on Water street. His brother will move over the store after the rooms are vacated by Mr. Dean who is planning to locate in the South. The RECORD joins with Mr. and Mrs. Dean's many friends in wishing them much success wherever they go. They have been prominent in church and society circles and will be greatly missed.

PASSED FIFTY-FIRST MILESTONE

E. A. Potter Gets a Surprise, but Celebrates in Earnest.

Special correspondent to the Record.

Mrs. E. A. Potter, wife of Supervisor Potter, of Sumner township, planned a little surprise for her husband on Friday last, St. Patrick's day, that being Mr. Potter's fifty-first birthday. It must not be understood that because Mr. Potter was born on St. Patrick's day that he is an Irishman, for he is not. He was born in the state of New York, March 17, 1854, and settled in Sumner, Michigan, in 1871. By his industry and that of his estimable wife they have carved out for themselves a pleasant farm home. With the aid of a telephone Mrs. Potter invited Mr. and Mrs. E. Tabbs, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Pitt and their son, Myron, and wife to dinner. As we drove up to the house we found Mr. Potter busily engaged in splitting up his summer's wood, and to say that he was surprised is putting it very mild. He soon "caught on" as the old saying goes, and helped the ladies out of the buggies and over the ice to the door step—which was no small task for a 115 pound man to assist the three 300 pound ladies to a place of safety—but he did it and did it Potter style and without a murmur or mislay to the ladies or himself. The table decorations were pink and green and the dinner should be spelled with a capital "D," for it was one of the finest, and for our Gratot appetites we did it full justice. The afternoon passed pleasantly, and will long be remembered as one of the happy halting places in the hustle, bustle and tussle of our busy lives.

KING LEAR.

Increased Interest Being Taken with Each Number of the Lecture Course.

The fifth of the Shakespeare lectures was given by Prof. Troop, of Chicago, upon King Lear, in the Presbyterian church, Tuesday evening. The interest in this course of lectures has been remarkable and each number seems to be up to the standard of the preceding ones. The presentation of King Lear in lecture is a very difficult task, the play in itself being so heavy and involved that it requires diligent study to understand and appreciate it. Prof. Troop succeeded admirably in giving the story and by his reading of many of the excellent and most dramatic passages, made the lecture very impressive.

The last number of the course will be given April 4, and Shakespeare's great comedy, "The Tempest" will be given at the concluding lecture.

SENATOR ELY'S AMENDMENT.

Proposes to Give State Power to Engage in Highway Improvement.

The people will vote on three amendments to the state constitution this spring, and among them is Senator Ely's proposition to give the state power to engage in the improvement of roads if it desires. This amendment, if it passes, will mean much to the improvement of wagon roads. The United States has appropriated certain money to disseminate information in this work, but the state must move before advantages can be taken of this information. Under present conditions the state is powerless to act. You should vote yes on the proposition.

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ARE VERY GRATEFUL

The Hand of Friendship Extended to Mr. and Mrs. Willard Robbins.

To our own immediate vicinity: Tongue cannot express the heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the sympathy which was shown to us in our misfortune of losing by fire our home and nearly all its belongings, which we had been nearly twenty-five years accumulating, and which burned March 10. While we were by the roadside, wounded and bleeding, you acted the part of the Good Samaritan; you put us on your own horse and took us to an inn. You did not do like a very rich man we read of in the Bible who would not give his fellow man so much as the crumbs which fell from his table, but you have shared with us. We believe that all have enjoyed giving. It is more blessed to give than to receive; therefore we believe that the Lord will bless all; and increase your basket in store.

This is what we received from our friends:

Money, \$39.95
Provisions, 23.45
Building material, 10.00
Promised labor, 30.00

Total, \$103.40
Sincerely yours,
MR. AND MRS. WILLARD ROBBINS.

AN ENJOYABLE EVENING.

Farwell Party Given in Honor of Claude Baker at the Home of James Kress, Jr., Tuesday Evening.

A pleasant time was spent with James Kress, Jr., Tuesday evening of this week, at his home on west Superior-st., at which time he gave a "Good Luck" farewell party in honor of Claude Baker, who leaves Thursday, for the northwest where he has a position with an iron mining company. The invitations sent out bore emblems in gift of a horse-shoe, wish-bone, and four-leaf clover, and with each was a "Good Luck" card, upon which it was requested a toast be written in rhyme, to the departing guest. A part of the evening's entertainment consisted in hunting for four-leaf clovers which had been previously hidden in the rooms, with a prize to the one who should find the largest number, and also to the one who should find the least. In this contest Miss Bessie Holmes secured the first reward, while Mr. Roy Hayt was awarded the consolation gift. The first was a gold stick pin in the shape of a horse shoe, while the latter was a pair of large eye glasses. Vocal and instrumental music, interspersed with games, were engaged in, after which refreshments were served and the several toasts to Mr. Baker read. Mr. Walter Hayt then in a few well chosen remarks in behalf of the company, presented to Mr. Baker a gold scarf pin, it being a horse shoe and wishbone combined. With much feeling and expressions of good will to all, Mr. Baker thanked those who had made it possible for him to so enjoy himself before leaving his native home to live among strangers, and assured them that he should always have a warm spot in his heart for his Alma friends, and especially for those present on this occasion.

CASE HAS BEEN DISMISSED

Position Taken by J. G. Kress is Very Commendable in Case of the People vs. Rockwell

The following letters from Prosecutor Salter and J. G. Kress to Justice E. N. Chadwick are self explanatory, and will be of interest to a great many of our readers. No doubt this is the wisest disposition of the case, and all concerned will blot out from their memory all unkind recollections of the past, and harmony and good will prevail in the future.

March 17, 1905.

Mr. E. N. Chadwick, Esq., Alma, Mich.

MY DEAR SIR:—

In the matter of the case of the People vs. Rockwell, I advise you as follows: I have a letter from Prosecutor Salter, in which he says: "There seems to be no dispute that Jimmie, when Supt. Rockwell punished him, was under suspension from school. He was therefore in the position of a stranger visiting that school. Mr. Rockwell, under the law, did not have the right to administer corporal punishment to Jimmie. He did have the right to order him from the premises and to eject him if he did not leave, and to use such means to do so as would be reasonable. I think under the circumstances this case should go no farther. I am strongly of the opinion that it will not help the schools of Alma, or of the county to have it prosecuted. I therefore advise that the matter should be dropped. I realize that you had the law on your side in the matter, but also feel that you, as a public spirited citizen, as I know you to be, can see that the good of all parties and the general public will be subserved by this case being dismissed."

Therefore, while I do not for one moment retract from my position that a wrong was done when Superintendent Rockwell so far forgot himself and the dignity of his position as to make a pugilistic attack upon one of the smallest pupils of his high school, and that at a time when said pupil was, by the order of Mr. Rockwell, leaving the building, yet, as Mr. Salter says, it will better serve the interests of the public schools of this county, that the case be dismissed, I hereby consent that the same may be done. At no time since the trouble for which the suit was brought have I refused to see and talk with Mr. Rockwell, and had he at any time come to me and said that in making the assault upon James he made a mistake, or that he did it in the heat of passion or while angry, the matter could and would have been overlooked, but when this was not done, I could not feel justified in voluntarily dismissing the case, yet, when the prosecutor puts it upon the ground that it will best serve the schools of the county and of Alma not to have the case tried, I must bow to the interests of the schools, even at the sacrifice of the interests of one scholar.

Let Mr. Salter's motion of dismissal date the 10th of March, 1905, at which time you still had jurisdiction of the case. Thanking both you and Prosecutor Salter for your kindness and assuring you of my sincere regards, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

JAMES G. KRESS.

C. L. DELAVAN FOR MAYOR

And a Full City Ticket Nominated at the Convention Monday Night.

PERFECT HARMONY PREVAILED

Question of Representation in City Convention Discussed and Settled.

The Republican city convention was held in Alma's public building, and the forty delegates were all present, besides a large crowd of interested citizens.

Chairman Ezra J. Smith called the convention to order, and after the committees on credentials and permanent organization and order of business had reported he instructed that ballots be prepared for the first nomination, that of mayor. The result of the first ballot was somewhat amusing, showing up the lax method of writing, the names; some with initials and some without, while others had just the surname. The result of the ballot was no choice. The second ballot was some better, and the third resulted in the nomination of Charles L. Delavan.

Two names were presented for city clerk, P. W. Cresser and W. W. Kinch. Mr. Kinch received the nomination on the first ballot. M. A. Holmes, J. A. Baker and Wm. Howe were the nominees for city treasurer, Mr. Baker receiving the nomination on the second ballot. J. D. Spinney was the unanimous choice of the convention for justice of the peace to fill vacancy, and E. N. Chadwick also received the nomination for justice of the peace to fill vacancy. The two year term went to Mr. Spinney and the four year term to Mr. Chadwick.

There is a general feeling of satisfaction with this ticket. Every candidate is a gentleman of business ability and unquestionable integrity, familiar with the duties with which he will be entrusted.

During the session C. F. Brown offered a resolution that in future city conventions each ward be entitled to one delegate for every ten votes for mayor. He gave as his reason that this would be in line with county and state conventions and would result in spurring each ward to get out its full vote at elections. After some discussion the vote resulted in leaving it as it now is, ten delegates from each ward.

The ten delegates chosen from each ward to attend the Republican City Convention were as follows:

1st Ward—E. A. Bagley, Ezra Smith, Geo. Ogden, Fred Rollin, E. C. Button, C. E. Hoag, Ross Thompson, W. A. Davis, the Fink, Thos. Clark.
2d Ward—C. F. Brown, A. W. Brock, J. D. Spinney, Chas. Allen, J. W. Glass, W. Bogart, J. Montgell, Tom Gaffney, John Schwartz, F. L. Barnes.
3d Ward—G. W. Palfrey, S. Messinger, Thos. March, J. T. Ewing, C. H. Decker, Wm. Howe, Jr., Wm. Demuth, J. A. Baker, Jos. Ray, S. D. Evans.
4th Ward—L. A. Sharp, F. Pollasky, F. King, J. H. Lancashire, E. G. Alverson, J. W. Case, Ed. Hannah, J. G. Kress, Geo. McCurdy, Geo. Delavan.

Following are the Republican candidates nominated in the four wards to be voted for in April.

FIRST WARD.

Alderman (2 years) Geo. Moore
Alderman (1 year) Otto Sanderhoff
Supervisor C. L. Delavan
Constable B. C. Button

SECOND WARD.

Alderman (two years) John Schwartz
Alderman (1 year) V. M. Hollenbeck
Supervisor D. Adams
Constable John Greig

THIRD WARD.

Alderman (2 years) A. P. Cook
Alderman (1 year) Wm. Demuth
Supervisor C. H. Decker
Constable Wm. Allen

FOURTH WARD.

Alderman (2 years) I. H. Erwin
Alderman (1 year) A. Thum
Supervisor P. M. Smith
Constable P. Ingelman

WARD COMMITTEES.

1st Ward—M. Holmes, Geo. Ogden, Dr. E. T. Lamb.
2d Ward—C. F. Brown, Floyd Glass, J. D. Spinney.
3d Ward—Thos. Marsh, S. D. Evans, J. A. Baker.
4th Ward—P. M. Smith, Alonzo Hood, J. G. Kress.

HOSPITAL NOTES.

Mrs. Sam Veeder, who was operated on three weeks ago for appendicitis, has returned to her home in Mt. Pleasant.

Miss Vida Smith, who underwent an abdominal section about twenty days ago, went to her sister's home, eleven miles northeast of Alma Tuesday.

Mrs. Orlando Childs, of Shepherd, had a large fibroid tumor removed Sunday.

Miss Louie Nickerson, of Stanton, came to the Hospital Tuesday for a little care of an amputation stump which was not doing well.

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Johnson have added to the pleasures of their lives the community of interests to be found in a new baby. A boy was born to them Thursday morning.

Robt. McNutt, formerly a resident of Alma, came into the Hospital Thursday for repairs.

Ithaca's new lighting plant is said to be one of the best in the state. It certainly ought to be at a cost of \$17,388.60.